

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Victor Vega, Latin America & Caribbean Region President



Dear Colleagues,

We are in the last part of a year that has been very challenging for the oil industry, but one where we have been able to keep up our Region's plans and activities, especially those related to young professionals and students. I want to thank all of our Leaders and volunteers for making this possible. I would like to highlight the following activities:

1. Multidisciplinary Geosciences Technology Workshops in Argentina and Peru, where we achieved integration with petroleum engineers and had good participation despite the difficult business environment.
2. Highly successful Student and Young Professional (YP) Leadership Summit with participation from AAPG President John Hogg.
3. Numerous field trips, technical sessions, wellsite visits and lectures in chapters across the Region.
4. New Student Chapters in Colombia and Suriname and YP Chapters in Bolivia and Mexico.

For next year we have great plans including:

1. Our first AAPG/SEG International Conference and Exhibition in Cancun, Mexico, where we hope to repeat the success we had in Cartagena in 2013 with a combination of a strong technical program, business sessions and activities for YPs and students.

2. Our first event with the SPE in Colombia to discuss relevant topics related to offshore exploration activities and challenges.
3. Geoscience Weeks in

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago to connect with middle and high school students and encourage them to study geosciences. For this activity, we expect our YPs and Student Chapter leaders to have a prominent role.

Finally I would like to emphasize that during this difficult time, it is key to consider alternatives and remain flexible. We have been in a downturn before, and we will come back eventually to have the same or higher levels of activities we had before. Education and networking remain key activities to consider during this time. We will continue to support activities that provide value to our membership. We are committed to continuing to make our Region relevant within the AAPG!

IN THIS ISSUE

- PG 1 President's Column
- PG 1 Region News Update
- PG 2 Leadership Spotlight
- PG 3 Students & YPs
- PG 4 Upcoming Events
- PG 4 Stay in Touch

REGION NEWS UPDATE

Pedro Alarcón, Latin America & Caribbean Region President-Elect
General Co-chair, GTW Peru 2015

Persistence and Prudence Pay Off in GTW Peru 2015

During low oil prices, organizing geological congresses, Geosciences Technology Workshops or any technical event is always a challenge. GTW Peru: "Increasing the Recovery Factor in Mature Oil & Gas Fields," held in Lima 15-16 October was no exception.

Organizing the GTW began the second quarter of 2015. At that time, almost all exploration activities were stopped in the country; even heavy oil production in the jungle was drastically reduced due to high costs. With almost no exploration, we thought the best option would be to concentrate on already discovered oil fields in order to increase the recovery factor.

It was not easy, but we knocked on the door of all the petroleum companies in Peru, and promoted the GTW through the AAPG website. We also invited several companies in Latin America and Caribbean to participate. Initially, several large companies declined the invitation, but with perseverance and persistence we convinced them that this GTW was a good opportunity to improve the recovery factor in their current mature oil and gas fields.

The GTW Peru 2015 concentrated on four topics:

- Solution Gas Drive Fields.
- Water Dive and Heavy Oil Fields.
- Gas and Condensate Fields.
- New Technologies for Enhanced Oil Recovery.

We believe that in current times when technology has improved significantly, there are opportunities to increase proved reserves through EOR projects (natural gas, steam, CO₂, nitrogen, polymer and water injection), horizontal and infill drilling. Forming multidisciplinary teams with geophysicists, geologists and reservoir engineers working together is the key to achieving good results. Participants discussed all those subjects at the workshop.

In times when the oil price is slightly above U.S. \$40 bbl, it was very encouraging to reach an attendance of 45 professionals and five students representing 22 companies from five countries. With attendance of high-level professionals, we had no problem obtaining the high technical content desired for the workshop's 20 sessions.

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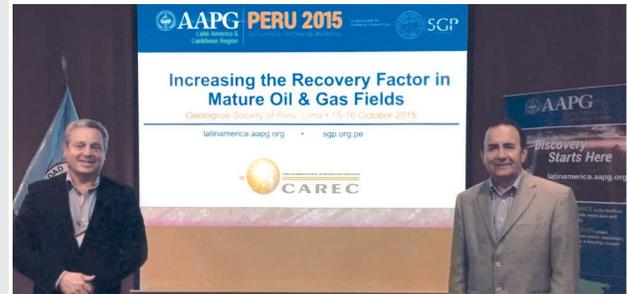
In order to reach an economic success, however, we had to reduce costs drastically. The decision to use the almost new auditorium at the Geological Society of Peru instead of an expensive hotel was a key factor. Expenses for closing cocktails and entertainment were also reduced. However, good Peruvian food with ceviche, of course, was an attraction for visitors.

Finally, obtaining both technical and economic success was

the result of strong teamwork, where general chairs and session chairs worked together. Hard work, persistence and perseverance are the key for difficult times.



The Geological Society of Peru facility provided a comfortable, cost-effective venue for the GTW.



GTW Peru general co-chairs Federico Seminario, Geological Society of Peru vice president, and Pedro Alarcón, AAPG LACR president-elect.

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

*Juan Herrera, Latin America & Caribbean Region Student Chapter Vice Liaison
Josué Martín Sánchez Llontop, YP Peru Chapter Member*

Persistence and Prudence Pay Off in GTW Peru 2015

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are proud to report that this year's 2015 Latin America & Caribbean Region Student Chapter and Young Professional Summit was a great success.

The Summit, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia from 4-6 September, was one of the Region's most important events. Despite current struggles in the industry, students and young professionals came together to share their experiences and lessons learned and to learn from professional geologists, geophysicists and engineers.

Participants included 24 students from AAPG student chapters from seven countries and six young professionals from four countries. Special guests included AAPG President John Hogg, Victor Ramirez and Andrés Reyes of Ecopetrol; German Bayona of ARES Geological Corporation; Martin Oviedo of Karoon; Pablo Moreira of Geologix; and Richard Ball of Chevron. Each delivered high-level technical conferences and provided both professional and personal advice to individuals entering the workforce.

Despite the downturn in oil and gas industry, we received support from professional societies including the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago, the Asociación Colombiana de Geólogos y Geofísicos del Petróleo and the Asociación Argentina de Geólogos y Geofísicos Petroleros and private companies Pluspetrol and Geologix. All of the sponsors recognized that, though the oil and gas industry is still struggling, events like this represent a long-term investment in the future of the industry.

Both of us greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve on the organizing committee.

Juan:

I participated as a student last year and this year as part of the committee, and from this point of view, I could appreciate the good progress we have made and observe the fruits of teamwork. We all look forward to continue repeating this event,



Student and YP Leadership Summit participants

which strengthens the links between students, universities, young professionals and industries.

Undoubtedly, the Summit was an enriching experience for all who attended, and participants left with the responsibility of transmitting all the experiences learned and with a high level of motivation to work in their chapters.

Josue:

I remember the inspiring time when I participated, as a student, in the first Latin America Region Student Chapter Leadership Summit at the AAPG ICE in Cartagena in 2013. What started as a fantastic idea is now an amazing reality. This year, as a graduate student and member of the YP AAPG Peru, I participated as a committee member, in the third version of the SCLS. As I expected, it was a motivating experience to continue growing at AAPG.

There are no words to describe how exciting it is to see how past Summits have made improvements

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in the development of the Student Chapters. We see the progress through activities like the “Student Chapter Snapshot,” in which each chapter shares experiences, issues, field trips, community work, goals and ideas for improvement, and the “Sister Chapter Program,” which links veteran chapters with new chapters in order to exchange ideas and resources.

Presentations we plan to continue each year include: “What Makes a Leader?” by Flover Rodriguez, who shows participants that leadership is not something someone gives but something you develop with passion and hard work, and “Did you Know? AAPG Resources Available to Students,” by Emily Smith Llinás, who provides insight into the number of opportunities AAPG provides to students.

It is important now more than ever for our Region to continue having these Summits, which help us to have sustainable growth no matter what the price of the barrel is. We are a family. We are AAPG!



Leadership Summit Organizing Committee members: Flover Rodríguez, Emily Smith Llinás, Lizbeth Calizaya, Juan Herrera, Diana Ruíz, Melisa Galván, Josue Sánchez and Juliana Ceballos.

STUDENTS AND YPS

Raquel Gewehr de Mello, Pampa Chapter President

Pampa Chapter Hosts Mineral and Energy Resources Symposium in Porto Alegre

The Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) AAPG Pampa Student Chapter collaborated with the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) UFRGS Student Chapter to host the First Mineral and Energy Resources Symposium in Porto Alegre, Southern Brazil 1-3 September.

The participation of energy company employees and academics brought new horizons to students from UFRGS and five other universities, offering varied subjects in the energy resources theme (evolution of sedimentary basins, stratigraphy of resource holding basins and methods of exploration) and in the mineral resources theme (mining, metallogeny and exploitation). This event took place thanks to financial aid from the AAPG Latin America & Caribbean Region. We wholeheartedly thank the AAPG for this opportunity.

The symposium included 15 diverse presentations, two short courses, a three-day field trip and poster session. The opening ceremony included speeches by the head of the UFRGS Geoscience Institute, André Sampaio Mexias; Research Pro-Rector of UFRGS and SEG academic adviser José Carlos Frantz; AAPG faculty adviser Adam McArthur and the Student Chapter presidents, Raquel Gewehr de Mello and Ronei Giusti Osrório. Speakers shared how this type of event is critical to bringing industry closer to the students, enabling us to understand the relationship of the university within the job market and what the future of the energy industry holds for young geoscientists.

The Symposium had 103 participants and 23 professionals exchanging experiences with the students from six regional universities, giving a broad exposure both to the event and to the AAPG. After the event, students from the Universidade Federal de Pelotas asked about starting an AAPG student chapter at their university. Several of the speakers, particularly the superintendent of Brazil’s Geological Survey, congratulated the AAPG and SEG chapters for the initiative and the organization of activities to improve the bond

between universities, students, alumni, industry and professionals from all areas of geology.

In addition to providing technical content, symposium organizers recognized the importance of giving back to the communities where we work. During the summit, we collected 90 kilograms of non-perishable food for Lar Santo Antonio dos Excepcionais, a shelter for children, adolescents and adults with severe brain injury, which come from families with low socio-economic status.

We hope this can be the first of many collaborative efforts to bridge the gap between students and industry here in southern Brazil!



Symposium participants visit old tunnels at the Camaquã Mines.



Pampa Student Chapter volunteers thank AAPG for supporting the event.



YP Chapter Re-Launches in Trinidad & Tobago

Karuna Moonan, YP T&T Chapter President

On 7 October 2015 votes were cast for an executive team for the AAPG Young Professionals Trinidad and Tobago (AAPG YP T&T) Chapter. Fifty ballots were received and the following AAPG members were elected to represent the executive team: Karuna Moona, president; Javed Razack, vice president; Lai Shan Sum, secretary; Krystal Ramdin, treasurer; and Shazana Gazalie, public relations officer. Past YP lead Nashomi Belfon will support the new team in advisory capacity.



From left: Shazana Gazalie (PRO), Javed Razack (vice president), Karuna Moonan (president), Krystal Ramdin (treasurer), Lai Shan Sum (secretary).

In the inaugural post-election meeting, the team reviewed the structure of AAPG, established the goals of the YP T&T Chapter and potential strategies for accomplishing these goals. Numerous ideas on growth and development were discussed, with the aim of highlighting the T&T Chapter within the LAC Region.

The primary objective of the chapter will be to provide support to recent graduates and the local AAPG Student Chapter, and encourage networking among professionals of varied levels of industry experience. Low-budget, high-impact events, including voluntary initiatives will be organized to promote the AAPG YP T&T Chapter. A chapter e-newsletter and establishment of an official Facebook page are aimed at improving connectivity among members and featuring the vast reserve of emerging talent,

ongoing local research and upcoming chapter events.

Technical talks, field trips and social events, among others will mobilize current and potential AAPG members, educating members of geoscience and promoting the benefits of AAPG membership. Special emphasis will be placed on YP and students' current projects and research, thus encouraging participation and interest.

For the upcoming Geoscience Week, the group plans to showcase geosciences to the public, targeting mainly high schools and offering career guidance seminars. This is known to be a crucial period during which most students make career-defining choices; and engaging activities will aid them in understanding the importance of geoscience and maybe even encourage them along that route.

All in all, we maintain high hopes for a successful YP T&T Chapter as we embark on the journey to full-fledged NGO status, while keeping the LAC Region in the spotlight. Keep up with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AAPGYPTT/.

Congratulations to our new Student Chapters!

- University of Suriname, Paramaribo – September 2015
- Fundación Área Andina, Valledupar, Colombia – October 2015

Way to go UNLP!

Students from the Universidad Nacional de la Plata in Argentina won the June 2015 AAPG Wiki Write Off for their publication on hydrocarbon reservoirs associated to layered intrusive bodies.

See their work at wiki.aapg.org.

Interested in IBA?

Universities interested in the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) competition must sign up by 15 December 2015. Visit iba.aapg.org for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan Now for 2016!

2-3 March 2016

SPE/AAPG Offshore Colombia Workshop – Challenges and Opportunities for an Emerging Industry

Bogotá, Colombia

www.spe.org/events/15acar

Sponsorship opportunities available!

6-9 September 2016

AAPG/SEG International Conference & Exhibition (ICE) – Exploring Frontiers in a Competitive Environment

Cancún, Mexico

<http://cancun2016.iceevent.org>

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities available!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Abstracts!

Show your work at the following interdisciplinary workshops: SPE/AAPG Offshore Colombia Workshop, Bogotá – submission deadline 6 November 2015.

AAPG/SEG International Conference & Exhibition, Cancún, Mexico – submission deadline 21 January 2016.

Contact latinamerica@aapg.org for more information.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Support the next generation of geoscientists as an Imperial Barrel Award competition (IBA) sponsor. Your support helps our Region's best and brightest prepare for careers in industry, and provides your company with global recognition and unique recruiting opportunities. Contact latinamerica@aapg.org for more information.

STAY IN TOUCH

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